

# Waiatarua Community News

850 copies

November 2017

## From Days Gone By

(an occasional series)

### From the Editor

Hello everyone

The shining cuckoos have finally arrived. Every day around our place I can hear their distinctive calls more and more often. These pretty little birds, every year without fail, arrive in late September having flown all the way from the Solomon Islands, battling storms and other dangers to get here. Such determination!

Their arrival is probably not so welcome for the poor old grey warbler, however, in whose nest the shining cuckoo lays its egg. When the chick hatches it takes over the nest completely, pushing out the grey warbler's eggs and chicks, with the surrogate parents being none the wiser.

Like our friend the shining cuckoo, I am determined to make our newsletter the best it can be. It may only be a small publication but it is one that is eagerly received by many. Last month I asked for feedback, and I am happy to say that I got it! It was great to receive your letters and emails - please keep them coming.

Cheers, Erin

### The Red Shed

Most readers will be familiar with this building – the “Red Shed” on West Coast Rd, just below Bush Rd. Did you know that this was one of a number of sheds and stables built by Handley “Andy” Lloyd,



who was one of the last of the original landowners in Waiatarua? The book “Song of Two Waters” tells us that these sheds were used as staging posts for the long journey to and from the city. Andy placed a blacksmith's anvil and everything necessary for making repairs to harness and coach in the sheds, and by 1900 had a regular coach service running between Auckland and Piha. While this shed today shows considerable signs of age, it is worthy of mention as an historic building.

### Kiwifruit Orchard

I was told by the previous owners of our place on West Coast Rd (between Raroa Tce and Rimu Rd), and who had lived here for 16 years, that our property was once a kiwifruit orchard. Not long after we moved here in 2009, we discovered some old Dalgety Export Kiwifruit labels in our workshop downstairs, as shown in the photographs. The downstairs part of our house was used as the packing shed. Apparently the kiwifruit did not do well,

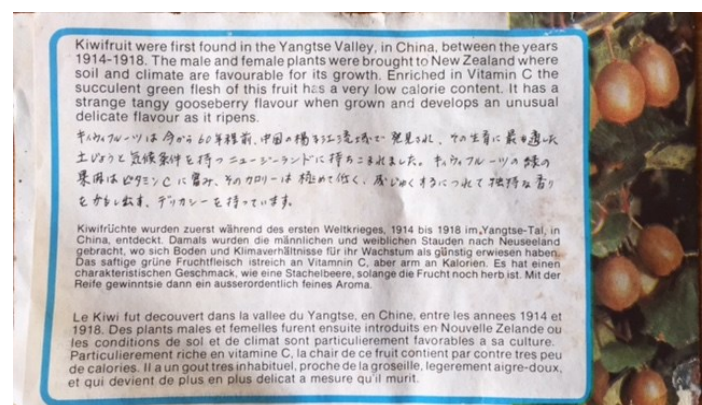
due to the clay soil. We still have one remaining kiwifruit vine on the property.

That's all we know. If anyone can provide any further information on this, I would love to hear from you!

### Baby Farms

Did you know that there were “baby farms” out West from about 1880 to 1910? “The West – The History of Waitakere” tells us that these were homes where unmarried young women could have their babies “no questions asked”. The babies were usually adopted out, but at one home near Waiatarua the midwife disappeared after police followed up the suspicions of a young mother and made a grisly discovery - a number of babies had been murdered and buried in the bush. The midwife, who was making a living from adoption fees, disappeared.

Erin Kingsleigh-Smith



Opinions expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the editor or the Waiatarua Ratepayers and Residents Association

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Community Hall and Library: 911 West Coast Road. Phone: 814 9353 Hall hire bookings: John Goudge. Phone 814 9744

Library hours: Thursday 10.00am–12.00pm; Friday 7.00pm–8.00pm; Saturday and Sunday 11.00am–12.00pm

website: [www.waiatarua.org.nz](http://www.waiatarua.org.nz)

## Letters to the Editor

We were interested to read your piece in last month's newsletter about the increase of numbers, speed and noise of traffic on our road.

We have lived on West Coast Rd, opposite Bendalls Lane for many years. We often have our young grandchildren visiting us. During this time we have had three crashes in our driveway. One destroyed our letterbox, one vehicle ended up in the ditch and one upside down in our gate. In our opinion this makes it probably the most unsafe spot on West Coast Rd. Not only this, but in this very windy part, there is no footpath.

We are pensioners and love to walk every day, and we also deliver the newsletter. We suggest that perhaps the residents on this stretch of West Coast Rd sign a letter to the Council saying that rates cannot be paid until work on a footpath has commenced, as once people are killed on that road they will be unable to pay the rates anyway!

*Herman and Jeanette Zuidmeer*

We would like to comment on last month's newsletter. First of all, many thanks for the hi-vis jackets. Much appreciated as we deliver the newsletter on the section from Upper Kauri Loop to Kelly's, and it does have some dangerous fast bends on it.

We have earlier made comment that it would be helpful if the Council could do a strictly "minimal" effort at providing some cheap form of level pathway just outside the white line, but only where it is easily possible without major civil works by deep culverts. Just some metal about 500mm wide would suffice. As we are considered a rural area, we personally would not like to see costly urban concrete footpaths, but just something level that doesn't force pedestrians out onto the road on the fast blind bends. But it has fallen on deaf ears, but perhaps a reminder to those that make these decisions from the WRRRA? This could be set against the cost of losing our bus route or enabling us to use the school bus (as commonly done in NZ rural areas), with no corresponding reduction in our rates.

We suspect the fortune spent widening the concrete footpath from the Parrs Park to the school has eaten most of our area annual financial allotment, which is strange, as fewer parents are allowing their children to walk to school because of easily mobile predators. We suspect it has much to do with the supply of fibre optic to the school, so they were obliged to dig up the footpath anyway?

So we live in hopes that the same reasoning will follow fibre optics up West Coast Rd in the far distant future, and we might get some rural minimal footpath at the same time!

We consider the Piha Rd intersection simply requires a No Left Turn sign from the Piha side, as there is probably limited traffic wanting to go from Piha to Swanson, and a "No U Turn" before the Elevation carpark.

*Geoff and Charlene Waller*

*The letters above have been edited for length—Ed.*

## Waiatarua Community Patrol

Hey everyone! We need your help. We are down to 10 active patrollers due to families moving away. This leaves us only completing about two patrols a week.

We need to patrol as a deterrent to thieves and vandals. We need to report all the illegal dumping to the Council, so that we can get a prosecution. We need to assist the Police in their tasks in the area.

Two hours a fortnight - that's all we ask.

Age range - from 18 (with full licence) to infinity. Those who are retired are definitely more use during the daytime, but workers may have availability on weekends and evenings.

Come on, give it a go!

Contact Les on 814 1130 or 021 720 100

*Les Duffield*

## Waiatarua Library

A small selection of some of the new books at your local library.

This one has been highly praised and is well worth reading. Fiona Farrell's novel "*Decline and Fall on Savage Street*" tells the story of a house with a turret in Christchurch from 1901 through to 2012. Through time its inhabitants come and go, there are wars, a depression but much remains the same. A nearby river runs slowly on, the geography remains unchanged until that fateful time in 2011.

The third book in the very popular saga by Ken Follett has arrived. "*The Columns of Fire*" is set in an England being torn apart by religious conflict between the Catholics and the Protestants. This story is set in Kingsbridge and follows Follett's previous great reads of the Black Death and Hundred Years War. However, it can be easily read as a standalone story if you haven't indulged yourself with his earlier epics.

Marian Keyes is a very popular Irish author. Her seemingly light books often explore some important social issues. "*The Break*" dives into the contentious divide over pregnancy and abortion. A husband decides he needs time to himself and plans a six month backpacking trip around Asia. His wife is left to run the house and care for their family. However, she decides that she is allowed to live her life as she chooses while her man is away. Read it.

In "*The Windfall*", Mr & Mrs Jha have lived for many years in their close-knit, noisy, much loved neighbourhood in East Delhi. Their son is studying in the USA and they have come into money. Life is getting better and better. A move to "the richer side of town" goes ahead. However, money and status doesn't bring total peace of mind. Mr Jha gets into a competition of flaunting wealth with his new neighbour. Basu Diksha has written a great little book.

Good Reading.

*Jeannette Ziesler*

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## Indoor Bowls

There has been no weather warning on a Thursday night for a while now, so why not come and try your hand at indoor bowls?

It is a relaxing and enjoyable way to spend a Thursday evening. As your skill progresses, it becomes more strategic in a fun way.

Not only that, but you are contributing to two good causes - the Community Patrol who keep you and your belongings safe, and the local drama club who entertain you.

Please see the details in the column "Community Notices"

*Celia Wood-Calvert*

## Fire Brigade News

Waiatarua has a new Chief Fire Officer. Congratulations to Kevin Healy, who will lead the brigade of which he has been a member for 21 years.

Our leadership positions received another boost in October when Steve Smith and Jason Mann completed their Senior Fire-fighter training with a 5-day practical course at the Mt Wellington Training Centre. Well done guys!

## Want to give something back?

If you'd like to join a great team and help your community, have we got a deal for you! You can be hands-on at an emergency, or you can provide support to those who are. If you'd like to find out more please contact Kevin or Ian – their details are below.

## Fireworks Safety

If you're planning to celebrate Guy Fawkes, please take care! After letting your neighbours know and putting your pets inside, you should light your fireworks in an open area, and keep a bucket of water or hose handy.

Only adults should light fireworks. Unlit fireworks should stay in their box or bag until you're ready to light them – and any duds should be left alone.

And if anyone does get burned, hold the burn under cold running water for 20 minutes.

## Contacts

Always phone 111 for any fire or emergency.

Otherwise please contact Chief Fire Officer Kevin Healy (814 9505) or Station Officer Ian Ford (814 8871).

As it's nearing the end of the year we won't chase you about subscriptions, but you don't get away scot free! Don't forget, 2018 subscriptions are due in January.

## Advantages of being a WRR member?

Show your membership card at the following businesses for a 10% discount (conditions may apply)

### Glen Eden Landscape Supplies

293 West Coast Rd Ph: 818 6129

### Heritage Collection Waitakere Estate

573 Scenic Drive Ph: 814 9622

### Blow Moulders Ltd

8 Waikaukau Rd Glen Eden Ph: 818 7709

(cash and cheque sales only)

### Elevation Brasserie

473 Scenic Drive Ph: 814 9727

The November edition of the "Hello Waiatarua" column, by our President, Peter Casey, can be found at

**[www.waiatarua.org.nz/hello-waiatarua](http://www.waiatarua.org.nz/hello-waiatarua)**

## Things your granny should have told you:

### How to clean windows

Spring cleaning? Mix one cup of white vinegar in a bucket of hot water. Use a clean sponge dipped into the water to clean the windows, making sure to rub the dirtier bits in the corners.

Scrunch up newspaper and use this to dry the window; a bit of elbow grease and circular motions often do the trick. Wear gloves otherwise the newsprint will leave your fingers black.

Put vinegar in a spray bottles to clean mirrors. Just spray and wipe with newspaper or paper towels.

To keep your bathroom mirrors from steaming up, rub with a dry bar of soap then scrub clean with a cloth.

## Advertising & Community Notices

*Commercial advertisements are welcome and can be arranged by contacting Erin Kingsleigh-Smith, [editor@waiatarua.org.nz](mailto:editor@waiatarua.org.nz), ph 814 8856. Community Notices are free to current financial members.*

**Art Classes:** Pathway Studio & Gallery, West Coast Rd, Oratia. Ph Carol 814 9438/021 033 0055.

**Better Scrapbooking Ltd:** Regular scrapbooking workshops as well as other regular scrapbooking and cardmaking classes. Supplies available: 153 Solar Rd, Glen Eden. Ph Megan 818 2045

**Doers Networks:** local, fast internet providers [info@doers.net.nz](mailto:info@doers.net.nz)

**Handyman Out West:** Any work undertaken. House and property maintenance, renovation and decoration eg gutter cleaning, water blasting, deck building, tree felling, painting etc. Reliable and friendly. Phone Mike 814 9708.

**Indoor Bowls:** every Thursday at the Hall 7pm for 7.15 start. No experience needed. Coffee and tea provided, BYO nibbles and other drinks if wanted. \$3 donation to CPNZ and WPAT. Ph Celia: 814 9660

**Lawn mowing and section clean ups:** Ph Grant at Top Grass Ltd. 814 9493 mob 021 024 75610

**Plants:** Bromeliads \$5 - \$6; Taros, cannas and various shrubs \$4 - \$5. All sales to Nepalese Educ Trust. Phone Margaret 814 9859.

**Table Tennis:** every Wednesday in the Hall, 7-9pm. No experience needed, all equipment supplied. \$2 per week Contact Tony 814 9860, email [tony.bacon@sthw.co.nz](mailto:tony.bacon@sthw.co.nz)

**The Oratia Community Church:** On the corner of Parker & West Coast roads. Fellowship meets on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 1pm in the church hall. Ph 813 9869 for information.

**Tiler / Stone layer:** 21 years experience in the trade available for indoor and outdoor projects large or small. Phone Craig Starr 021 610 408.

**Waiatarua Playcentre:** 911 West Coast Road, Waiatarua. Phone 09 814 8835. Sessions: Monday, Wednesday & Friday 9.30am 12.30pm.

**Zumba With Grace:** Thursday 7-8pm Oratia Settlers Hall. Ditch the workout, come join the party! Cost \$10 per class. Ph Grace 818 2046

## DECEMBER NEWSLETTER

Copy needs to be in the hands of the Editor

By FRIDAY NOVEMBER 10<sup>TH</sup> @ 5PM

## Waitakere Forest & Bird

Talk by Serena Simmons, Massey University Research Student

Thursday 16th November 7.30pm

Kelston Community Centre  
cnr Awaroa/Great North Rd

## Research on the critically endangered Norfolk Island Tasman Parakeet

Non members welcome. No charge, but koha appreciated to cover hall hire.

For further information:

Phone Liz Anstey, 0274 762732

[lizanstey@hotmail.com](mailto:lizanstey@hotmail.com)

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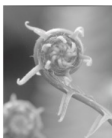


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